

REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 25-33, and 35-36 are pending with Claims 16-24 and 34 being previously withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention or inventions. On an initial note, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during a telephonic interview with the Examiner on May 6, 2010. During the interview, the elements of Claims 1 and 6 were discussed. It was agreed that Applicants would provide claim amendments incorporating elements of Claim 6 into each of the independent claims to expedite allowance of all claims of the application. Accordingly, Independent Claims 1, 25, 27, 33, and 35, have been amended, without prejudice, and Claim 6 has correspondingly been canceled without prejudice. Support for the amendments to Claims 1, 25, 27, 33, and 35 can be found, for example, in paras. [0050] and [0058] of the Application, as filed. Further, Claims 28 and 30 have been amended to reflect the amendments made to Claim 27. Still further, previously withdrawn Claims 16-24 and 34 have been canceled without prejudice in favor of filing one or more divisional patent applications.

Applicants submit that these remarks herein are made without prejudice as to patentability, including the doctrine of equivalents, and that no new matter has been added. Although Applicants do not believe any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or provide any refunds to the deposit account of Bracewell & Giuliani LLP, 50-0259 (Attorney Docket No. 0771CG.035249).

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that the Application is in condition for allowance. As such, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 6, 2010

/denver s. bisignano/
Denver S. Bisignano
Registration No. 60,693
BRACEWELL & GIULIANI LLP
P.O. Box 61389
Houston, Texas 77208-1389
Voice: (713) 221-1491; Fax: (713) 437-5346

#2382799.3